

Weinberger visits ship off Beirut

BOARD THE USS GUAM (AP) — U.S. Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger on Wednesday praised the Marines for their work in Lebanon and blamed the continuing presence of "foreign forces" for the nation's turmoil. Mr. Weinberger, addressing about 700 Marines aboard this amphibious ship, said that the United States has not changed its policy of providing naval and air support for the Lebanese government, despite reports to the contrary out of Washington. The defence secretary said that President Reagan made the decision Feb. 7 to withdraw the Marines from their airport base "down in the middle of a bullseye" to U.S. ships offshore because diplomatic efforts had failed to secure the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon. Mr. Weinberger arrived unexpectedly on board the ship for a short visit and later left for Cyprus en route to an undisclosed destination.

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Trudeau announces intention to quit

OTTAWA (R) — Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau Wednesday announced his intention to resign. Mr. Trudeau's press secretary said the prime minister would step down as soon as the ruling Liberal Party selected a new leader. Press Secretary Ralph Coleman said Mr. Trudeau, 64, who has been Canada's leader since 1968 apart from one brief nine-month period out of office, told Liberal Party President Ivo Campbell of his decision in a hand-delivered letter Wednesday morning. Mr. Trudeau's resignation will be effective from the day "a new leader is chosen and sworn in," Mr. Coleman said. Mr. Trudeau's most likely successor at the moment is former Finance Minister John Turner, who resigned from his cabinet post in 1975 over policy differences and has worked since as a lawyer in Toronto.

King reassures West Bankers

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein received Wednesday representatives of the West Bank and assured them that Jordan will always stand in their support regardless of the consequences. The King told the representatives: "Your steadfastness has been a source of pride for all Arabs and Jordan will not abandon its support for you whatever the costs." The delegation, which arrived in Amman Monday, met Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Tuesday and submitted to him a memorandum to co-ordinate the PLO's moves with Jordan "to liberate the West Bank from the Israeli occupation before it is too late."

Queen opens new art gallery wing

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday opened the newly constructed second floor of the Jordan National Gallery. The Queen toured the new section and inspected the 250 paintings on display in addition to works of sculpture by artists from Jordan and other Arab and Islamic countries. The opening ceremony was attended by Princess Wijdan Ali, president of the Royal Society for Fine Arts, Minister of Culture, Youth and Antiquities, Abdullah Obeidat, Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, Mohammed Salih Al Nabulsi, the gallery director Suhail Bisharat, members of the diplomatic corps and an invited audience.

Gandhi pessimistic over Gulf mediation

JEDDAH (R) — Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was quoted Wednesday as saying she saw no imminent end to the 41-month-old Gulf war between Iran and Iraq. Asked by the Saudi daily Al-Bilad whether she saw any hope of an end to the conflict in the near future, Mrs. Gandhi said: "At this moment I can see no hope."

S. Arabia rejects foreign intervention

RIVADH (R) — Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said Wednesday his country did not want foreign intervention in the Gulf. "Escalation of the (Iran-Iraq) war could affect navigation in the Gulf, which in turn could lead to foreign intervention and this is something we do not want," Prince Saud said in answer to a question at a news conference.

UAE minister arrives in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) minister of state for foreign affairs, Rashid Abdullah Al Nuaimi, arrived in Damascus Wednesday for talks with Syrian leaders on the situation in the Arab World, the Syrian news agency SANA reported. His arrival coincides with a visit to Damascus by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hassan Sheikh Ol-Islam, who arrived Tuesday night with a message from Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

Jordan, PLO reach basic agreement on dialogue

By Laila K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Wednesday concluded four days of top-level talks with a basic agreement to continue the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, but without reaching any specific formula for pursuing joint efforts on the Palestinian problem.

His Majesty King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who arrived here Sunday, held a series of meetings earlier in the week to map out a joint strategy for future moves on the Middle East, and Mr. Arafat is expected to wind up his official visit with a meeting with Special Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who arrived in Amman for a 24-hour visit on Wednesday.

In the meetings with the PLO chairman and his delegation, "we reached a basic agreement of principles upon which we could move in the future," Minister of Information Laila Sharaf told the

Jordan Times on Wednesday. "But no specific elements of any concrete nature have been agreed upon," Mrs. Sharaf said.

Mrs. Sharaf added that the Jordan-PLO talks were conducted in a spirit of good will and "have been successful in clearing the atmosphere that prevailed after the breakdown of our earlier talks with the PLO" on April 10 last year.

"We have managed to build the infrastructure for joint moves in the future," Mrs. Sharaf said. "But I would not characterise our agreement as an initiative nor as a formula for solving the Palestinian



Mrs. Laila Sharaf

problem," she added.

The talks between Jordan and the PLO broke down last April for failure to reach an agreement on a formula that co-ordinates a joint political action. But last week Mr. Arafat arrived in Jordan upon an invitation from the King to resume the dialogue.

A statement on the results of the talks was expected to be issued

Wednesday night or Thursday morning.

Earlier Wednesday, a senior PLO official told the Jordan Times "that a basic agreement defining future (Jordan-PLO) relations has been reached." The official did not disclose any details of the agreement, but said that the dialogue will continue.

He said that Mr. Arafat is expected to leave for Tunis on Wednesday or Thursday but he might stop in Saudi Arabia for a short visit, but will return after two weeks to resume the talks.

Palestinian sources told the Jordan Times that Mr. Arafat is pressing for an early convening of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament in exile, to formulate the PLO's future policies.

The PNC meeting was scheduled to be held in February in Algiers but was postponed to an unspecified date due to failure to settle differences between Fatah, the mainstream movement in the PLO, and other PLO factions in the aftermath of Mr. Arafat's unexpected visit to Cairo last December.



His Majesty King Hussein and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat Wednesday meet officers of the Royal Jordanian Air Force who took part in a military

exercise watched by the King and Mr. Arafat (Petra photo)

King, Arafat watch military exercises

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein and Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Wednesday attended military exercises by units of the Third Royal Armoured Division, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

Following the visit, the King and the PLO chairman paid a visit to an air base where they met with the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force and other senior officers. They watched formations

of aircraft taking off and toured the base. They also met with officers who presented a briefing on the duties and activities of the base.

The two leaders were accompanied by Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, PLO deputy military commander Khalil Al Wazir and senior officers from the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Hussein visits Azraq oil exploration site



His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by Natural Resources Authority officials and technicians, Wednesday tours the site of oil exploration activities in Azraq (Petra photo)

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday expressed his satisfaction with the work of specialists at oil exploration wells at Azraq and praised the team's endeavours and loyalty to their country.

The King was speaking during a tour of the Kurma well site at Azraq, where he inspected exploration and drilling operations. The discovery of oil in the region is hoped to usher a new and bright era for Jordan and help the country achieve self-sufficiency, the King said.

During his tour, King Hussein was briefed by 'Obeidat visits oil exploration site, page 3

Gemayel meets Assad

DAMASCUS (R) — Presidents Hafez Al Assad of Syria and Amin Gemayel of Lebanon Wednesday held a second round of talks here, continuing discussions diplomats say centre on how Lebanon will go about scrapping its troop withdrawal accord with Israel.

The two men met earlier Wednesday at a meeting also attended by Syrian Prime Minister Raouf Al Kassar, the two countries' foreign ministers and other officials.

The diplomatic sources said there was speculation that abrogation of the agreement with Israel, signed last May, could be announced in Damascus, or at resumed national reconciliation talks between Lebanon's warring factions in Geneva.

Syria and its Lebanese opposition allies have demanded that the accord be scrapped, saying it jeopardised Syrian security and infringed Lebanon's sovereignty and independence, as well as legitimising Israeli gains from its June 1982 invasion.

The Lebanese president is under strong pressure from his country's predominantly Christian right-wing factions not to scrap the agreement.

He has been forced to make concessions to Syria and its allies by opposition military victories in the fighting in Lebanon and withdrawal of American, Italian and British peacekeeping troops from

Beirut, the sources said.

Mr. Gemayel's meeting with Mr. Assad, which follows months of negotiations by Saudi mediators shuttling between Beirut and Damascus, marks his first visit to Syria since he took office in September 1982.

He had been due to come to Damascus last November, but the trip was postponed at the last minute because of Mr. Assad's sudden illness.

The sources described the meeting as the start of a thaw in relations between the two governments, soured by the Israeli invasion and Mr. Gemayel's previous dependence on the United States to secure withdrawal of foreign troops from his country.

The Lebanese president received a warm welcome from Mr. Assad and other Syrian officials when he arrived at Damascus' old airport in a chartered Swiss plane carrying the Red Cross.

Syrian newspapers, meanwhile, stressed Wednesday there could be no solution to the Lebanon crisis without Syria's acquiescence.

"No political move or proposal for Lebanon will succeed if it contradicts Syria's position and principles," the official Al Thawra newspaper said in a front-page editorial.

Saudi Arabia urges active U.S. diplomatic role in Lebanon, page 2

Gulf tension rises as flare-up develops

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iran's latest war offensive against Iraq entered its second week Wednesday, with both sides locked in heavy ground fighting and increased tension in the strategic Gulf waterway.

Iraq, which said more than 30,000 Iranian troops have been killed in the past few days, has acknowledged that Iran is holding the oil-rich Majnoon Island in Iraq's southeastern marshland.

Iran, meanwhile, said it would not accept conditions laid down by Washington that all planes and vessels maintain a certain distance from U.S. ships in the Gulf unless with prior consent.

The United States, which has about 30 warships in the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean, has pledged to maintain free passage in the Gulf, which Iran has threatened to seal at the Strait of Hormuz if Iraq disrupts its oil shipments (U.S. officials doubt Iranian ability to block Hormuz, page 2).

In a move that threatened to escalate the 41-month-old war, Iraq reported on Monday its planes had bombed tankers at Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal.

Iran denied the Iraqi report, which has received no independent confirmation so far.

U.S. officials in Washington said Tuesday the war was in much the same deadlocked state with no significant shift in the battle lines.

In Paris, Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan said Tuesday night his country would attack any oil tanker heading for Kharg. The export terminal near the head of the Gulf lies within an Iraqi-imposed war zone.

Mr. Ramadan, in Paris for talks with French leaders, told a news conference that the blockade on Kharg would remain in force as long as Iran denied Iraqi shipping access to the Gulf. The Iranian counterthreat to blockade Hormuz, closing off the Gulf to all oil tankers and other shipping, was "of no interest" to Iraq because its own ships have long been barred, he added.

Mr. Ramadan, the third ranking Iraqi official, said the Iranians had "gained a few kilometres here and there" in their current offensive, but added: "Battles are not measured in the number of kilometres gained or lost, but in the final outcome. The limited Iranian advances were stopped with a very heavy cost to the enemy, in accordance with a precise plan. There was no breakthrough."

Last month, Washington warned all vessels to stay eight kilometres from U.S. navy ships in the Gulf and all planes to fly at least 600 metres overhead unless they had prior agreement.

In Tehran, an Iranian foreign ministry spokesman said Tuesday Washington would be responsible for any incident caused by U.S. actions in the Gulf.

Iraq said Tuesday it had won the biggest victory of the war by crushing an Iranian offensive and driving Iranian forces back across the border near the southern city of Basra.

"Iraq's flag was hoisted at the last fortified position held by the Iranians at the Iraqi village of Al Beidha," a battle commander said in a cable to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Iran, meanwhile, reported a victory for its troops 145 kilometres north of Basra, at Iraq's Majnoon Island, eight kilometres from the border.

An Iraqi commander interviewed by the Associated Press in the town of Azar, about 88 kilometres north of Basra, verified that Iran maintained control of Majnoon. But the commander, Major-General Hisham Sabah Fakhr, said Iraq had pushed Iranian troops out of much of the surrounding marshland.

The Iraqi commander told reporters the Majnoon Island would be "purged" and the Iranians holding it crushed soon in a major offensive (See story on page 3).

Reuters correspondent Subby Haddad reported that journalists were shown 150 Iranian prisoners-of-war, among them children aged between 11-16 years old.

Hart stuns Mondale

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire (R) — Senator Gary Hart, promising new ideas and new blood, has won a stunning early victory over favourite Walter Mondale in the battle for the U.S. Democratic presidential nomination.

Rising like a meteor in the opposition party's race for the White House, the 47-year-old Colorado senator beat former Vice-President Mondale by more than 10 percentage points in Tuesday's New Hampshire presidential primary, first of the 1984 election season.

Ohio Sen. John Glenn finished a distant third as New Hampshire voters, apparently signalling a weariness with old faces, changed the Democratic race from a Mondale runaway into a David-Goliath duel between upstart Hart and well-financed and well-organised Mondale.

A subdued Mondale conceded defeat but predicted he would win the nomination anyway.

Hussein, Gonzalez discuss Mideast

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez arrived here from Saudi Arabia Wednesday and held talks with His Majesty King Hussein at the Royal Palace. Officials accompanying Mr. Gonzalez said talks were centred on Middle East peace efforts and Spain's plans on diplomatic relations with Israel.

Prior to his departure from Riyadh after concluding a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia, Mr. Gonzalez told Reuters referred to what he described as Israeli inflexibility towards the Palestinian question and said: "In the light of this conduct, it would be useless for other countries including Spain, to try to give Israel what it wants in the belief that Israel would come to its senses."

Officials said that Mr. Gonzalez, who has stressed

Spanish support for Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat throughout his Middle East trip, was expected to meet the Palestinian leader late Wednesday night or Thursday morning. The officials attached special importance to Mr. Gonzalez's talks in Jordan because of the renewed dialogue between King Hussein and Mr. Arafat. Observers say that Spain seeks a larger role in the Middle East peace efforts.

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal, said earlier Wednesday that Spanish recognition of Israel would be an empty-handed gesture that would not contribute to peace in the Middle East. The foreign minister's statement was interpreted as a warning to the Madrid government of an unfavourable Saudi reaction to the possibility of full Spanish-Israeli relations.

The Spanish prime minister was received at the airport by Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism Jawad Al Aouni, Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Emilio Menendez del Valle and high-ranking Jordanian officials.

Car bomb kills 2 in west Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A car bomb exploded in mainly Muslim west Beirut and rival militias bombed residential areas of the city Wednesday as President Amin Gemayel met Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad in a summit seen as a turning-point in his foreign policy.

At least two people were killed and 27 wounded by the car bomb, which blew up between two apartment blocks in a wealthy area of the capital, state-run Beirut Radio said.

The bomb, planted in a blue BMW according to a Lebanese Red Cross worker at the scene, set fire to nearby cars, smashed windows and damaged the facades of the two buildings.

It was the first car bomb to explode in Beirut since opposition militias drove army units loyal to Mr. Gemayel out of the western sector three weeks ago.

The blast came in the middle of an afternoon of artillery exchanges between predominantly Christian rightist militias in the east and the opposition forces in the west.

The radio of the rightist forces said shells fell on parts of east Beirut early Wednesday afternoon and snipers shot and wounded several civilians on the east side of

the front lines.

Heavy artillery opened up on densely populated areas of the western sector shortly afterwards, apparently in retaliation for the attacks on the east.

Ambulances raced through the streets of the capital and first radio reports said seven people were injured in the bombardments.

The main rightist militia, the "Lebanese Forces," earlier this week accused the mainly Muslim opposition groups of sifting field guns in the western sector and vowed to fire back.

Eyewitnesses in east Beirut said "Lebanese Forces" vehicles were touring the streets of east Beirut Wednesday warning people to stay indoors for their safety.

The explosion triggered a fire that destroyed at least eight other cars. It knocked down metal railings from the balconies of a 12-storey building and threw shards of glass into the street, panicking pedestrians.

Neighbours said they did not think the attack had a clear political target because the building houses only average families.

"There's at least two people killed and the figure of injured is between 50 and 75," said Mahmud Chaila, a 25-year-old rescue worker.

U.N. reportedly nears decision on Beirut force

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council appeared to be inching towards a decision on a French proposal to dispatch United Nations troops to Beirut to replace the four-octon Multi-National Force.

After three public meetings and extensive closed-door consultations, council members scheduled a further round of private bargaining Wednesday in an air of cautious optimism.

France, which has circulated a revised draft of its original resolution calling for the establishment of a U.N. force, under-

took Tuesday to produce yet another version, mainly to meet remaining Soviet objections.

Britain's Sir John Thomson told reporters: "I think we shall get an agreement... the feeling around the table was we were making progress and that there was a strong desire to reach a consensus... at any rate a resolution against which there were no cogent votes."

The United States, Britain and Italy pulled their contingents out of the Multi-National Force (MNF) earlier this month in the face of renewed factional war-

in Beirut, leaving only the French troops in place.

The presort draft calls for the U.N. force to move into position as soon as all elements of the MNF have left Lebanese territory and territorial waters.

Western sources said the Soviet Union wished to add the proviso that there must be no renewal of shelling or air bombardment.

This was aimed at blocking any further involvement in the fighting by United States warships stationed off the Lebanese coast or by carrier-based U.S. aircraft, the

sources added.

The Soviet Union was also said to object to wording in the resolution's preamble calling for the withdrawal from Lebanon of all foreign forces whose presence has not been approved by the Lebanese government.

Western sources said the Soviet Union sought to focus on the Israeli troops remaining in southern Lebanon while avoiding even an indirect reference to the Syrian army units that occupy large areas in the north and east of the country.

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U.S. officials doubt Iran's ability to close Hormuz

WASHINGTON (AP) — Any Iranian attempt to close the Gulf to oil tankers can be blocked by the U.S. Navy, according to Pentagon officials.

Since the Iran-Iraq war began in 1980, Iran has repeatedly vowed to shut off the Gulf if its oil facility at Kharg Island is attacked, noted the officials, speaking Wednesday only on condition they not be named.

No Iranian attempt to close the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf has actually been made, the officials noted.

About 40 per cent of the oil used by the non-Communist world flows through the 42-kilometre-wide Strait of Hormuz at the bottom of the Gulf. U.S. President Ronald Reagan said last week that "there is no way we could allow that channel to be closed."

To back up that promise, the Pentagon has five ships in the Gulf and 30 more in the Indian Ocean.

including the aircraft carrier Midway and its four escort ships. They are on station in the northern Arabian Sea within easy striking distance of the Strait of Hormuz.

"We could stop any actual attempt by the Iranians," said one U.S. Navy officer. "But Lloyd's might follow up by effectively doing the job for Iran."

He was referring to worries that Iranian attacks on oil tankers might force a large increase in rates charged by Lloyd's of London, the British insurance syndicate. A rate increase combined with safety fears of tanker captains might slow the steady stream of oil shipments.

Should Iran actually attempt to close the strait, it would have two choices — sinking ships to bar navigation or seeding the area with

mines. But sinking tankers is unlikely to do the job since the strait has a pair of fairly wide ship channels, Pentagon officials said.

Sinking one tanker wouldn't block either channel because wrecks could be blown up by navy planes. It would take a number of ships sunk in strategically placed spots, to create a hazard serious enough to foil the sophisticated navigating devices on modern tankers.

The officials also pointed out that such sinkings could well be beyond the capacities of Iran's small navy or its air force. U.S. intelligence officials speculated that Iran has less than 500 working fighter planes and only a few small naval vessels.

Iran's other option would be to lay mines, but that could also be countered, the Pentagon officials say.

Iraq vows to 'purge' marshland of Iranians

AL UZAYR, Iraq (R) — Iraq for the first time has acknowledged that Iran was occupying the marshland Majnoon Island in southern Iraq, but said the territory would be "purged" soon.

The commander of East Tigris operations, Maj. Gen. Hisham Sabah Al Fakhr, told correspondents at his headquarters in this small town that the Iranians were still holding the island, at Hawiza marshes, which contain one of the richest oil fields in southern Iraq.

He said: "The best way to destroy them (the Iranians) is to keep them there (in the island) and crush them in a major offensive."

The commander spoke to foreign reporters who arrived Tuesday in this town, 90 kilometres north of Basra Port on the main

Baghdad-Basra road. Iran, which launched an offensive on the southern front last week in the 41-month-old Gulf war with Iraq, said on Friday its forces had seized the Majnoon Island and a few kilometres from the border.

The Iraqi regional commander said the Iranians had attacked this sector with four divisions of mostly irregular troops, using river boats of different sizes, but all had been wiped out except for a few who fled and 150 captured.

He said the Iranians' infiltration through the passages of Hawiza marshes which extend over 1,500 square kilometres was not a surprise for the Iraqi forces.

Reporters said the 150 prisoners of war, among them children between 11-16 years old, led by several old Mullahs (Muslim

teachers). Gen. Fakhr said that overall the attack was on a front 60 kilometres wide aimed at seizing the main Baghdad-Basra road in Al Qurnah and Al Uzayr towns. He acknowledged that a "very few of them reached the road" but were captured later on.

He said: "The Iranians attacked without air cover and without armour... they captured two villages only... the battle continued for more than 48 hours and ended at 12:30 hours today (0930 GMT Tuesday)."

Gen. Fakhr categorically denied Iranian charges that Iraq used chemical weapons in recent Gulf war battles, in which, he said, the Iranians had lost 30,000 men killed and between 50,000 and 80,000 wounded.

Sudan reports rebel attack on regional capital

KHARTOUM (AP) — The Sudanese army confirmed Wednesday that guerrillas had shelled a regional capital last week but said no one had been injured.

In a statement distributed by the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA), an army spokesman said rebels had shelled Malakal, the capital of the Upper Nile Region, located some 650 kilometres

south of Khartoum. "The recently reported attack by outlaws was merely a random shelling of the town's outskirts that injured nobody," the army statement said.

SUNA did not say when the attack took place but claimed Sudanese troops had "annihilated" the rebels.

was calm "after the outlaws have been dealt with" and claimed Nile River and land transport to the southern regions had been secured.

Rebels have charged that Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri and his government, dominated north Sudanese Arabs, have short-changed the southern areas in economic developments.



A member of Shi'ite 'Amal' militia fires an AK-47 fighting along Beirut's "Green Line" continued, assault rifle towards Lebanese army positions as Monday (AP wirephoto)

S. Arabia urges active U.S. role in Lebanon

WASHINGTON (R) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has urged President Reagan to stay actively involved in Lebanon but the United States has rejected Lebanese President Amin Gemayel's request for an extended military commitment, the Washington Post reported Wednesday.

Quoting unnamed diplomatic sources, the paper said the Reagan administration had turned down Mr. Gemayel's request for U.S. naval firepower to maintain the military status quo in Lebanon.

Administration spokesmen had no immediate comment on the

report. The Post said a letter from King Fahd was delivered to Mr. Reagan late Tuesday by the Saudi ambassador shortly after the envoy's return to Washington from the Middle East.

The King warned that disengaging from Lebanon could cause irreparable damage to U.S. influence in the region, the paper reported, quoting sources it said were familiar with the letter.

Administration officials have signalled that the United States now intends to play a passive role in Lebanon, Mr. Reagan's Middle

East envoy Donald Rumsfeld would withdraw from diplomatic efforts to resolve the country's problems, they said on Monday.

Mr. Rumsfeld was not expected to return to Lebanon and would concentrate on Mr. Reagan's plan for an overall Middle East peace settlement, they said.

The decision was taken because of the withdrawal of U.S. Marines from Beirut to ships offshore and the absence now of any meaningful U.S. role in trying to stem the violence and encourage reconciliation between warring factions, the officials said.

Sinai force commander says Israel, Egypt keen on keeping security pact

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Lt. Gen. Fredrik Bull-Hansen, the Norwegian commander of the Multinational Force monitoring the peace between Egypt and Israel, said Tuesday there had been few violations of the security agreements in the Sinai desert separating the two countries.

"There have been some breaches, but they were more in the nature of bureaucratic errors," he said but refused to explain further, saying that his task was to report to Israel and Egypt, "not to anyone else."

"Both countries are very keen to stick to the agreement," he added in an interview conducted a

month before he was to give up his position to become Norway's defence chief July 1.

The 2,600-member monitoring force, whose general director was killed in a Rome terrorist attack earlier this month, is charged with ensuring that both countries honour the terms of their 1979 Camp David agreement. Since it moved into Egyptian-held Sinai in 1981, Gen. Bull-Hansen said, the tension force has tried to guarantee that "no act of belligerency be allowed to originate in the one country against the other."

Israel has reported incidents of mines planted in the Negev Desert

area bordering Sinai, which killed and wounded several bedouins, but there have been no published reports of illegal troop movements on either side despite the cold peace on the political level.

The Norwegian officer also said that wherever possible in trouble spots around the world, "we should try and use the United Nations rather than a Multinational Force, because the U.N. has the broadest political backing." But he declined to talk about a widened deployment of United Nations troops in Lebanon or the role of the Norwegian battalion in South Lebanon.

Arab Gulf states agree to implement Islamic law

By Hamza Hendawi
Rear

BAHRAIN — Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies have agreed to implement strict Islamic "Sharia" law within five years.

The six Gulf states, their Muslim traditions increasingly under the influence of Western ways, decided at a recent meeting in Riyadh to safeguard those traditions by embracing more closely the teachings of God and the Prophet, Mohammed.

The meeting of the justice ministers of Saudi Arabia and the other five members of the Gulf Co-operation Council — Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — agreed on a five-year plan under which they will move towards implementation of Islamic law.

Saudi Arabia, home of the puritanical Wahhabist Movement, has largely applied the Sharia laws since the rise to power of the Al Saud family more than half a century ago.

But most of its banks follow capitalist principles while the other Gulf states' legal systems are largely European-style.

Sharia laws, whose application has varied greatly from Islam's early days in the 7th century, are based on the Muslims' holy book, the Koran, and Prophet Mohammed's teachings.

The laws regulate the social, economic and political affairs of society and are supposed to ensure the welfare of every Muslim.

The word "Islam" means "submission" or "surrender" to God. But to Muslims, Islam is more than a religion, it is a culture with religion as the dominating factor determining the character of a Muslim state.

The Riyadh meeting decided to set up a committee of three noted Ulemas (religious scholars) to study how to adapt existing laws to the Sharia. Their recommendations will go to a committee of six Ulemas, one from each of the six Council countries.

"After that," one official told Reuters, "the justice ministers will meet to ratify the recommendations of the Ulemas and leave the matter up to their heads of state."

"Our world has become so complicated, and to adjust the Sharia to present day life is also so complicated that it could take

more than five years, or perhaps less," he said.

Although some aspects of the Sharia are applied in Saudi Arabia — such as amputation of thieves' hands — and to a lesser extent in other Gulf states, it is the remaining tenets of Islamic laws which are likely to prove most difficult to implement, the officials said.

The Western-style banking system, for example, is still predominant in the Gulf while the Sharia forbids the concept of making interest.

Kuwait and the UAE, however, both have a handful of Islamic banks which do not charge interest rates on loans. Commissions are charged instead.

Saudi Arabia, home of the two holiest Muslim shrines of Mecca and Medina, has no Islamic banks operating officially although some private Islamic financial organisations have been allowed to operate as the personal property of princes, according to informed sources in the kingdom.

Alcohol is strictly banned in Saudi Arabia but Interior Ministry statistics reveal that 300 per cent in 1982 dealt with alcohol abuse.

Other aspects of the Sharia are widely carried out in the kingdom, such as complete separation of the sexes in public and a halt in all business activities during prayer periods — five times a day.

Saudi Arabia, whose ruling family, like those in the other Gulf Arab States, in Sunni Muslim, makes a point of carrying out punishments in public, mostly after Friday prayer gatherings.

One problem was that if Islamic banks were set up, this might pose a dilemma by implying that the existing Saudi banking system was un-Islamic, the sources said.

Bahrain, a flourishing island nation with a large Western community, uses parts of the Sharia on civil matters such as marriage, divorce and inheritance. But it allows its people considerable liberties compared with other parts of the Gulf.

Bahrain is the only Arab Gulf state to allow its nationals access to alcohol and women in Bahrain enjoy almost equal footing with men.

In Kuwait, a small Gulf state enjoying massive wealth, the Sharia is also confined to matrimonial matters despite repeated calls for full implementation.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

16:00 News
16:05 Cartoons
17:00 Children's Programmes
18:00 Children's Programmes
18:05 News Summary
19:00 Local Competition Programme
20:00 News to Arabic
20:05 Arabic Series
21:00 Arabic Play
21:05 News in Arabic
21:10 Play Cont.

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Comedy: Benson
21:00 Towards 2001
21:10 Drama: St. Elsewhere
22:00 News in English
22:15 Feature Film: Raggedy Man — Eric Roberts, Sam Shephard

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.60 KHz, SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 News
08:00 Morning Show
08:05 News Summary
08:30 Morning Show
11:00 Pop Session
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session
12:30 News Summary
13:05 News Summary
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 Just A Minute
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Special Feature
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Good Old Days
18:30 News
19:00 News
19:30 News
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
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BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 News
06:05 Financial Review
06:30 News Summary
07:00 World News
07:30 News Summary
08:00 News
08:05 Nature Notebook
08:30 The Farming World
09:00 World News
09:30 Country Style
09:45 News
10:00 World News
10:05 Radio Newsworld
10:30 World News
11:00 World News
11:05 The World Today
11:30 Financial News
11:40 Look Ahead
11:45 Edward Edgar: The Making of a Composer
12:00 News
12:05 Yes Minister
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VOICE OF AMERICA

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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* "Portraits of Landscapes from the Middle East" by Wolfgang Tietz at the Goethe Institute at 9:30 a.m.

* Paintings by Ahmad Na'wash at the University of Jordan's Library at 11:30 a.m.

* Turkish Carpet exhibition at 11 a.m. paintings by Sabahat Rashid and photos by Osman Akuz at the San Rock Hotel.

* Turkish handicrafts and paintings exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* "Photos exhibition on Romania at the Plastic Artists Association at Jabal Leiwelbeh at 4:30 p.m.

* "Le Roman Noir" starts at the French Cultural Centre.

* "Festival du film Policier" starts at the French Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

* "Lulu" and "Television Cooze" film programmes at the San Rock Hotel at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday.

* "Turkish folk music programme at 9:30 p.m. at the San Rock Hotel.

* "Discuss Turkey" at the San Rock Hotel at 5:30 p.m.

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MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 517601.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Clan Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalists. Muntazah, Jabal Leiwelbeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.

Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 662424.

Applied Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic): Jabal Leiwelbeh, tel. 74404.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Humein, 661757.

Church of the Assumption (Greek Catholic): Jabal Humein, 661757.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer): Jabal Amman, 41559.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331.

PRAYER TIMES

Arab union warns against dairy production shortfall

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Union of Foodstuff Industries (AUI) expects demand for dairy products in the Arab World to reach 13.743 million tonnes by 1985, while its production of the products will be a mere 10 million tonnes.

It also proposes that April 26 be declared "Arab Dairy Day" in a bid to encourage the production and to improve the quality of dairy products.

A memo to this effect was received by the Amman Chamber of Industry from the AUI secretary-general, Faleh Jaber.

Despite Arab projects to increase dairy production, the Arab World will, by 1985, be producing

nearly 3.5 million tonnes less dairy products than its needs, and, if the present trend continues, the year 2000 will witness a shortfall of 13.8 million tonnes of dairy products worth \$1.651 million, Dr. Jaber said.

The AUI proposed the holding of a seminar to tackle the dairy products issue in each Arab country to cover production, processing and marketing.

Such a seminar will focus Arab attention on ways of developing dairy production and will underline the importance of dairy processing as a way of contributing towards the achievement of Arab food security.

Social security provisions outlined to expatriates

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian delegation from the Social Security Corporation (SSC), led by its Director Farhi Obeid, met Jordanians employed by Qatari institutions to explain the SSC law and its attendant benefits, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported from Doha.

Mr. Obeid and his delegation are making the tour of Qatar and other Gulf states upon instructions from the government to offer SSC benefits to Jordanians working abroad and to invite them to contribute to the building of their country.

The expatriates are being invited to join the SSC scheme on a voluntary basis, Mr. Obeid told the meeting.

He said that this facility will be available once the SSC has arranged all the administrative and technical facilities for it and is being extended in the light of the success of SSC projects in Jordan.

Mr. Obeid explained the SSC laws and the accompanying benefits and also the proposed system for applying SSC regulations to Jordanian expatriates.

He also briefed his audience on the range of the SSC's investments in various Jordanian development projects particularly housing schemes.

The SSC is determined to offer Jordanian expatriates the chance of owning housing units in Jordan if they so wish provided they open savings account with the Social Development Bank in which the SSC owns most of the shares, Mr. Obeid said.

At the meeting, the Jordanian expatriates voiced their desire to be included with in the scope of the SSC law and to benefit from the housing scheme. They also expressed their appreciation to the Jordanian government for its response to their requests in this field.

The Jordanian delegation later met Qatari Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Ali Ansari to discuss co-operation between the two countries in labour-related matters.

On Thursday the delegation is due to leave Qatar for the United Arab Emirates and later for Kuwait.

ILO talks team chosen

AMMAN (J.T.) — An evaluation of the performance of the Arab Labour Office and preparations for the next International Labour Organisation (ILO) conference will top the agenda of the 12th Arab Labour Conference meeting which will open in Baghdad on March 4, according to Labour Minister Tayseer Abdul Jaber.

The conference, he said, will discuss the budget and future programme for the Arab Labour Organisation during the coming year. The Ministry of Labour delegation to the meeting will comprise Dr. Abdul Jaber as head, labour office Director Saleh Al Tarawneh and industrial relations Director Saleh Fahmawi as well as Ali Issa from the Social Security Corporation as members.

Mr. Khalil Abu Khayma, chairman of Jordanian Trades Union Federation, and two other members will represent the Jordanian trade unions at the meeting.

The director of Amman Chamber of Industry, Ali Dajani and two other members will also be included in the Jordanian delegation. Amman Chamber of Commerce Chairman Amin Younis Al Hussein and another member represent the chamber at the meeting.

Friends of Archaeology arrange busy schedule

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Archaeology fans will have their hands — and their time — full in March if they take in the many and varied activities offered by the Friends of Archaeology, including fieldtrips, lectures, exhibitions and courses.

The month starts with a lecture on the Pella excavations by director Tim Potts, at 7:00 p.m., March 3, at the British Council.

A lecture in French will be given by G. Tate at 6:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre, entitled "The Dead Cities of Northern Syria".

Dr. Nabil Khairy of the University of Jordan lectures on the 1981 season of excavations at Petra, at 7:00 p.m. on March 10, at the British Council.

Exhibitions during March include an overview of French contributions to Jordanian archaeology, at the University of Jordan library from March 5-12; and a photographic exhibition of archaeological projects in Jordan sponsored by the British Institute at Amman from March 25-31 at the Amr Hotel. The British exhibition includes daily film showings.

Fieldtrips

The month's first fieldtrip is on March 16, to Arad Al Amir and Ras, two Hellenistic and Roman sites near Amman.

The second fieldtrip is a rather more adventurous three-day rambling excursion to south Jordan, taking in the Wadi Hessa, Khirbet al Tamar, Dhat Ras, Lejjun, El Kaseh, the King's Highway, Wadi Mujib and Wadi Walla. Participants will have to bring their own sleeping equipment and cars. Dates are March 22-24.

Less hardy enthusiasts who nevertheless would like to see the Roman legendary fortress at Lejjun can make a one-day trip on



Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat (fifth from left) is briefed on the details of the Kurma oil field during his visit there Tuesday (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

Obeidat views drilling at Kurma well

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat Tuesday inspected the drilling operations at the Kurma oil well in the Azraq region and was briefed on progress in the oil prospecting process by engineers and officials on site.

The prime minister also watched an experimental process by which crude oil was extracted from the well by using its own force and through pumping. He also watched the burning of crude oil and other chemical materials used in opening the porous rock in which the oil lies.

Presenting the briefing to the prime minister and other officials were: Engineer Kamal Ibraim, director of the energy department at the Natural Resources Authority (NRA); Khalid Al Shiyab, head of the NRA testing division, and Abdullah Al Rouman and

Mohammad Nabulsi from the (NRA) drilling department.

The prime minister praised the efforts of the specialists and engineers who are conducting the survey and drilling operations and who are testing the oil samples.

Accompanying the prime minister on his tour of the oil site were: Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Jawad Al Anani, National Planning Council President Omar Abdullah, NRA Director-General Yusuf Al Nimri and NRA Deputy Director Ahmad Dakhan.

An NRA spokesman said that the drilling at the exploratory well at Kurma ended after reaching a depth of 3,217 metres.

Samples extracted from the well were then tested to find out about the prospects for production, the spokesman said.

He continued saying that oil gushed out at a depth of 2,924 metres and preliminary tests have shown that the oil has a 28 degree density by American standards and contains one per cent sulphur.

At least 600 barrels of crude oil can be extracted daily from the Kurma well, the spokesman added.

Kurma was the seventh exploratory well drilled by NRA teams in the region since the start of 1981 within Jordan's oil prospecting programme.

The spokesman said that drilling has already started on an eighth well near H-4, while seismic shocks and surveys are continuing in a number of other areas.

He said that the NRA now conduct further tests to determine the production prospects of crude oil from the Kurma well.

Agricultural engineers call for more investment

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Agricultural Engineers Higher Council, which began its meeting Sunday, renewed its call to Arab governments to give agriculture the due attention it needs and to direct investment into that sector.

Participants also called on Arab countries to facilitate the role of agricultural engineers in order to help them to perform the functions and tasks entrusted to them in the best manner possible.

These sentiments came in a final communiqué issued by the council Monday at the conclusion of its three-days of meeting.

The communiqué also stressed the distinguished role of Arab economic integration, particularly in the field of providing food for the Arab people, and emphasised the pioneering role of the Arab agricultural engineers in this respect.

It also called on Arab agricultural engineers to continue to

develop their profession in order to serve agriculture in the Arab World and to achieve the targets of self-sufficiency and food security.

The participants also reviewed the current state of the Arab Nation and reaffirmed the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish a state on their national soil under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

It also voiced its total rejection of all attempts to liquidate the Palestinian cause.

The council then denounced the conspiracy against Lebanon and called for the withdrawal of all invading forces and the abrogation of all pacts which touch upon the sovereignty of Lebanon.

It also called for support for the Lebanese national forces in their just struggle against Zionism and imperialism.

Cabinet chooses new representatives

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet Wednesday appointed Walid Asfour as government representative on the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company board of directors.

This position became vacant after the appointment of Dr. Hanna Odeh as minister of finance.

The cabinet also approved the appointment of Dr. Nooriddin Taqiyiddin and Salem Al 'Ekour as members representing the government on the board of directors of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation.

The cabinet later gave its consent to the organising of a mobile archaeological exhibition to travel to Belgium and the Netherlands.

The exhibition, entitled "Jordan's Civilisation through the Ages", is being organised by the Department of Antiquities and will display pottery found at different Jordanian archaeological sites.

JEA signs electricity contracts worth JD 71.7m

By Afifah A. Kaloti
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Wednesday signed four contracts valued at JD 71.7 million for the construction of the first stage of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of JEA, Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism Jawad Al Anani signed the agreements with representatives from four international companies which were granted the awards, two of which are Japanese, one Italian and one German.

The signing ceremony was attended by JEA Director-General Hisham Al Khatib and the authority's top officials as well as by ambassadors from countries of the firms involved. They were Mr. Naka Yama of Japan, Marquis Fabrizio Longhi of Italy and Dr. Hermann Munz of Germany.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, the JEA Public Relations Manager Marzouq Al Hadid said that the first stage of the project is expected to be completed in the second half of 1986 when two thermal units of a capacity of 130 MW each will start working.

Mr. Hadid explained that the generating capacity of the JEA power stations all over the Kingdom will reach 565.5 MW at the end of 1984 and, with the Aqaba new project, it will reach 825.5 MW by the end of 1986.

"Jordan's generating capacity will exceed the countries demand by the end of 1986 which will mean that we will always have enough capacity for new industrial projects."

Award details

On the distribution of work among the four companies and the value of each individual contract awarded, Mr. Hadid said that the Italian company Franco Tosi will do the work on the thermal turbines and the electrical generators, as well as its auxiliaries, and is priced at approximately JD 28.7 million.

The Mitsubishi Consortium of Japan will be responsible for work on the thermal boilers and its auxiliaries.

Financing

Mr. Hadid pointed that, out of the total amount of money needed for the project, 18 per cent is being covered by the government and JEA, whereas the rest of the financing is being covered by loans from the Kuwaiti Development Fund, the Arab Fund, the Saudi Development Fund, the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, the World Bank.

CAEU talks recommend co-ordinated tax system

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Financial and Monetary Committee of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) ended a three-day meeting here Wednesday during which it discussed a number of issues and topics related to the co-ordination of Arab tax legislation.

Speaking after the closing session, CAEU Assistant Secretary-General Mohammad Al Sharif said that the committee had issued recommendations calling on Arab countries to co-ordinate their currency exchange rates, to extend the use of the Arab currency of account (Arab Dinar) and to lay the ground work for Arab monetary integration.

The committee also called on Arab states to draw up a mechanism by which to settle inter-Arab balance of trade problems and to find ways of encouraging the investment of Arab funds in different Arab countries.

It also urged Arab financial in-

stitutions to find a common formula for the financing of major Arab schemes and to urge United Nations agencies to offer more financial aid to less developed Arab countries, Mr. Sharif said.

The recommendations will now be submitted to the CAEU ministerial meeting which is scheduled to start in Amman in June.

The committee meeting opened here Sunday.

Fertiliser plant to be established

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Valley Farmers Association is to establish a project to mix fertilisers in the Arda region of the central Ghor.

The project is costing JD 10,000 and has a productive potential of 20 tons per hour on the basis of one working session that can, when necessary, be doubled by operating a dual production line.

The project will also reduce the cost per ton of fertilisers by \$97.

THE INTERNATIONAL CLUB OF DIPLOMATS

will hold a Buffet Luncheon at The Shepherd Hotel on Wednesday February 29.

All members of the club, and new diplomats and their spouses are welcome. There will be a cash bar from 1:30 p.m. and the buffet will be served free of charge from 2 p.m.

CAR FOR SALE

Opel Ascona 1.91 yellow, four-doors, 78,000 km good condition, on view at car park of Intercontinental Hotel today.

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A MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

Special thank you to All who have found our dog Matti also to the Police Dog Training Centre in Juweida for their help. Also special thanks to everyone who has helped us to locate her.

Thanking you all

The owners

DELUXE FURNISHED HOUSE FOR RENT

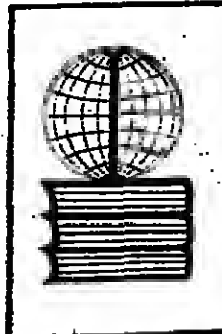
Nicely decorated and furnished house consisting of three bedrooms, two bathrooms, reception, living room and dining room, with separate sitting room and large fully-equipped kitchen.

Approx. area 300 sq. metres with garden, telephone, central heating and wall-to-wall carpeting.

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We open today and you can find us at the Second Circle, Al Buhtari Street, near the French Loaf. Come and have a look, you might find the book you have been looking for.

NOTICE ABOUT OFFICE MOVING

We have the pleasure of informing you that we have moved to the following address:
— Address: Sweifiyeh (South of Amra Hotel) Jabal Amman, 6th Circle, Jordan P.O. Box 9410, Amman, Jordan

— Telephone No.: 811943, 811946
— Telex: HANBO JO 21327
— Date of office moving: March 1st, 1984

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'The thread that leads to mutual recognition'

Following is the full text of a statement delivered at a Middle East symposium at Harvard University last month by Mr. Yossi Sarid, a member of the Israeli parliament from the Labour Party.

WE ARE five members of the Knesset from Israel, who have accepted the invitation to come here to discuss the future of relations between Israelis and Palestinians — a future on which our personal and national fate so clearly depends.

We have come here because we should like to believe that this get-together is based on the realisation that what is known as "the Palestinian problem" is not merely a problem of the Palestinians, but is a problem of the Israelis as well. Without a solution to this problem, none of the sides involved in this bitter and bloody historical conflict will enjoy peace and security.

We should also like to believe that this get-together is amongst people who understand that the struggle between the two nations cannot be resolved by means of military force. Neither side will ever be sufficiently strong to win a victory which will enable it to drag the other — defeated and submissive — to the table, in order to unilaterally dictate the conditions of a solution to it. National struggles such as this one cannot be resolved militarily — only politically. My colleagues and myself are here to hold a discussion because we believe that all the participants in this symposium share the view that Israelis and Palestinians will have to live with each other, side by side and not in place of, or at the expense of each other.

It seems to me that amongst the Israelis taking part here today, there are no fundamental differences of opinion concerning the future of relations between Israelis and Palestinians, even though, undoubtedly, there are variants of this approach amongst ourselves. What I say here represents a general consensus which is above the existing variants.

The Israeli occupation of the West Bank has lasted now for over 16 years. We, the moderate forces in Israel, have been trying all these years to explain to our compatriots that this occupation is extremely dangerous to Israel, and is liable to bring about our total corruption.

Following the 1967 military victory, many Israelis held a sincere but naive belief that Israel could maintain an "enlightened occupation". An enlightened occupation is, of course, impossible. The occupied party, which refuses to reconcile itself to the situation, gradually starts expressing this lack of reconciliation through manifestations of resistance, of insurrection and revolt. The occupier, on the other hand, can see no alternative to continuing its rule by means of suppression.

However, these means are incapable, of course, of uprooting the manifestations of resistance and

insurrection. On the contrary, the means of repression, which become progressively more harsh as the resistance intensifies, only further complicate the situation, and increase its dangers. Thus, the two sides — both the occupier and the occupied — enter a vicious circle, a "spiral of terror" spinning at an ever increasing speed. The more urgent and critical the need to break this circle becomes, so the real chances for doing so weaken. The speed at which the spiral of horror spins eventually gets completely out of control, threatening both sides with total injury.

There is no trace of the enlightened occupation, irrespective of what the original intentions and wishful thinking were. One does not have to be a determinist to grasp that an occupation has its own rules, an inner law, and that it develops its own predetermined dynamics. Even the Israelis were unable to register a patent for some other sort of occupation, which is essentially different from others.

An additional naive belief has been held by many Israelis in recent years. When it became apparent that an enlightened occupation would be impossible to maintain for any length of time, they deluded themselves that the inferior norms which are applied to the West Bank would not spill over into Israel proper, within the "green line" borders. They continued to hope that we would manage to maintain a reality of two planets — one planet: the West Bank, the second planet: "little Israel" — without the one touching the other and affecting it. This belief, as well, had no basis in reality. If we, the Israelis, are present both here and there, then what happens there must happen here as well. Whatever takes place and emerges in the West Bank will gradually take place and emerge in Israel proper as well. If the norms which are applied to the West Bank are corrupt, then those we apply to ourselves will become corrupted as well. It is only a matter of time.

If human life is no longer a supreme value in one location, there is no reason to believe that it will continue to be a supreme value elsewhere. The process of devaluation in the value of human life will not stop at the green line. Israel has always been justly proud of the fact that the concern for human life and man's fate have stood at the top of its scale of values and norms. It is very doubtful whether Israel can continue to be so proud.

We, who are present here, are not ashamed of our concern for the Palestinian human being and his fate. On the contrary, for us this concern is a duty of honour as human beings. However, when we show our concern for the Palestinian human being, we are, in fact, showing our concern for the Israeli human being, the Jew, lest he should lose his human form and moral image. It is no coincidence that all the true democracies in the

world sooner or later understood that it is impossible to maintain simultaneously both democratic rule and a rule of occupation, whether in a large or small territory, no matter how near or distant. Democratic regimes have been obliged to decide: To either give up democracy or the occupation. This is what we demand of our own state as well: To give up the occupation so that, heaven forbid, we shall not lose our precious, irreplaceable democracy.

There is a third belief which has been held by many Israelis in recent years — an additional belief which has now been shattered. Israeli public opinion allowed itself to be persuaded that the Palestinian problem could be resolved with "a zip and a zing". We were convinced that a war in Lebanon could uproot the whole Palestinian national struggle, bring the Palestinian population in the West Bank down to its knees, and enable Menachem Begin, Ariel Sharon and Raphael Eitan to annex the West Bank to Israel. All the parties involved in the Lebanese war paid a heavy and dear price — but it was a price paid in vain. Not only was the Palestinian problem not resolved, but its entire scope, depth and urgency were once again revealed.

If the Israeli government had intended to beat the "terror" once and for all, so that it would never rise again, then this goal was neither attained, nor could it have been attained. Not only have the manifestations of terror failed to decline, as a result of the Lebanese war, but they have, unfortunately, risen. They are becoming increasingly more intensive and insane. If someone in Israel wishes to take comfort in the fact that today's terror is not only Palestinian but Shi'ite as well, I doubt whether he will find anyone to share this "comfort".

If the Israeli government intended to block the political option of the PLO by means of the Lebanese war, it has, of course, failed in this intention as well. Should the PLO only so wish, it has the option of taking the political course, which I certainly hope that it does, for the political course is the only one which can lead to a just solution of the Palestinian problem and to co-existence in peace and security. I have never managed to figure out what it was that scared the Likud government more — its political option. One way or another, following the Lebanese war, both these options are still open and available.

It seems as though the Lebanese war has split the PLO in two, along lines which are determined by attitudes towards the two aforementioned options. The war gave birth to one extremist PLO, which declares unequivocally that it believes in the course of armed struggle, and which it insists on pursuing. The war also gave birth to a second, more moderate PLO, which appears at the moment to be studying the possibility of join-

ing the region's political process, as the only means of escaping the dangerous dead-end.

The Lebanese war has, undoubtedly, been a tragedy. It enters the long list of tragedies which have visited our region — a region which has experienced so much suffering and pain. Both sides are responsible for bringing these tragedies upon themselves, and both have paid the price.

The Palestinian side has also continuously made a fatal error by refusing to accept Israel's actual existence and recognise it as a *fait accompli*. Later on, when the first signs of accommodation are recognition began to appear, the PLO made a further mistake when it refused to join the political process in any way. Only recently it seemed as though Yasser Arafat had found, together with King Hussein, a formula which would enable the Kingdom of Jordan and the PLO to embark on a joint political move, based on the Reagan initiative and the Fez plan. But very soon it became apparent that Arafat was unable to deliver the goods.

The Middle East plunged back into the same old boggy and malignant swamp. The extremists on both sides have once again caught the centre of the stage, pushing the moderates aside, and playing into each other's hands. The extremists of the region have united. They have united in order to take away from us, the moderates, the hope for reconciliation.

What, now, is the role to be played by the moderates in both camps? What is the duty placed on us? First of all, we must deliver the two nations — each of us his own nation — from the bitter and sterile debate concerning historical wrongs and original sins. If the Palestinians will continue to bewail the wrong done to them by Zionism — by our movement of liberation — and if we shall continue to bewail the "basic" Arab desire to throw us into the sea, no progress will be made.

We, the moderates, must deliver the two nations from the vicious circle of just claims. Each side has serious and just claims, by means of which it wishes to place the full responsibility and all the fault on the shoulders of the other. When each side has serious claims and just demands, a tragedy is certain to befall both. It is our duty to tell our peoples: True, our claims are just, but the other side has such claims as well, and we must understand them. The Israeli side argues, and just, that it is unwilling to negotiate with the PLO, because the PLO has never officially abandoned its declared intention of wiping Israel off the surface of the earth. The Palestinian side argues, and form its own point of view with justice, that contrary to the Israelis, it has no state, no army, and that it has not realised its right of self-determination. Its main weapon is just non-recognition of Israel. If it will give this up as well, then it will only further weaken its inferior position.

Thus, when just claims face just claims, the two sides become involved in the sterile, endless debate: Who ought to take the first step, who will be first to recognise the other? Many long years have been lost over this pointless argument. Now, the time has come to put an end to it.

In order to put an end to it, once and for all, one must strive towards the critical, longed for point — the Archimedean point of the Middle East conflict, with the Palestinian problem at its core. If we shall reach that point, then we shall have a lever by means of which we shall be able to raise the Palestinian problem onto a new plane of discussions, and negotiations towards a real resolution of the problem. The point is — mutual and simultaneous recognition of the right of self-determination of the two nations. The Jewish people, settled in Zion, will recognise the right of the Palestinian Arab people to self-determination, and the Palestinian Arab people on its part will recognise the right of the Jewish people to self-determination in its homeland. Only mutual and simultaneous recognition can put a stop to the endless debate as to whose right is superior, and who should recognise whom first.

Let me use this platform in order to approach all the men of good will, and all those who seek peace in the Middle East, wherever they may be. Anyone who is interested in playing a constructive role in our battered region has, at present, only one correct and useful thing to do: To lead the two sides towards the point of mutual recognition. There is no point and no advantage in placing pressure on one of the sides only — on either Israel or on the Palestinians. Such pressure will bear no fruit, and might even act as a boomerang. The recognition which we all are striving for must be explicit and authoritative, not evasive or conditional.

This first, basic principle of mutual recognition must be joined by a second principle which is directly connected with the question of "who": with whom will Israel have to carry on negotiations for the resolution of the Palestinian problem and for a stable, permanent peace in our region? The answer now is simple and clear, emanating from the first principle: Israel should talk peace with anyone who adopts this first principle of mutual recognition. Whoever recognises Israel's right to exist as a sovereign, secure state in the Middle East, should be considered by it a legitimate and acceptable partner at the negotiating table. This is the second principle.

There is a third principle, which relates to the final form in which the Palestinian Arab nation will realise its right to self-determination. As is well known, there are many and varied views concerning the preferred and desired form. There are many in Israel, in the Arab World and elsewhere, who believe that a solution which does not take into account the close links and the strong ties between the West Bank and the East Bank — the Kingdom of Jordan — is artificial, arbitrary and unrealistic. These believe that it would be a fatal mistake if we disregard these links and ties, and support a solution which divides sovereignties along the Jordan River, as between its Eastern and Western Banks. One way or another, no matter how legitimate the various views may be, the final decision must be taken when the time comes — by the Palestinian Arab nation itself. This is the third principle. The

Palestinian Arab nation is the one which will decide in which form it would like to realise its national right of self-determination.

The programmatic basis for negotiations for peace in the Middle East is now within reach. If we shall only manage to stabilise it. Two political programmes are presently at hand, and if the necessary alterations are introduced into them it is they which will constitute the basis for negotiations. I am referring to the Reagan plan and the Fez plan, which must in future merge with each other. The Reagan plan is faulty because it does not relate directly to the Palestinian Arab nation and its national problem.

The Fez plan is faulty because it does not relate directly and explicitly to the state of Israel as a sovereign state which has to be recognised. We must invest great efforts and raise our contribution so that what is lacking in each of the programmes will be made up, and then, only then, will it be possible to state that we have the edge of a thread for negotiations with reasonable chances for success.

In order to prepare the ground and the hearts towards negotiations, two additional prior and indispensable steps must be taken. One step must be taken by Israel: negotiations will not open, and if they will open are bound in fail, unless Israel agrees to stop completely the negative, harmful process of settlement in the occupied territories. As long as Israel is unwilling to stop the settlement, any talk of progress towards negotiations is empty talk, lip service and no more. A second step must be taken by the PLO — at least that PLO which puts on airs of being moderate and rational. Again, negotiations will not open, and if they will open are bound in fail, if the PLO will not agree to stop all acts of terror. Responsibility for the terrible attack on the bus in Jerusalem, which the PLO took upon itself only a few weeks ago, leads even those who are most moderate amongst us to despair. We despise this terror, and will never be able to reconcile ourselves to it. Every such blow fatally sabotages the chances of a solution, and removes negotiations beyond the dark mountains. We are here because we believe that the moderate people on both sides must help each other. The problem now is not how negotiations will be concluded. The main problem now is how negotiations will commence. The extremists in both camps are doing everything in their power to prevent us from finding the edge of the thread which will lead us to recognition, reconciliation and a solution. The moderates in both camps must do everything in their power in order to enable each other to uncover the edge of the thread, to grab hold of it, and never let go of it. We have come here in order to place in edge of the thread in your hands. We have come here with a profound hope: that you will give us the other edge of this thread. Each of us will return from here to his place in order to continue the contest for public opinion. This is a most difficult struggle. One needs much force and courage in order to persevere in it. Without your help, and without ours, there is no hope of changing public opinion, of bequeathing our views to it, of being victorious in the struggle. With your help, and with ours, we believe wholeheartedly that it is possible to bring about a change in public opinion, that it is possible to bequeath our principles to it. It is possible to win this crucial struggle.

Solidarity is the answer

IT has never been fair for the United States and others to ask Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) alone to give a new life to the moribund peace process in the Middle East, when Washington itself did not seem to be prepared to exert enough effort to wrestle even one concession from Israel on the questions of Lebanon or the West Bank. It has also been wrong to assume that Jordanians and Palestinians would want to be part of a process that is likely to complicate, rather than simplify, future steps towards achieving a comprehensive Middle East settlement.

It is not a secret that Jordan is willing, and has indicated on a number of occasions its willingness to negotiate peace, and even take a risk for it, provided that the PLO, as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, agreed there was a fair chance that something might be accomplished through taking such a step. If and when the PLO said "yes," Jordan would still be taking the big risk of struggling in a diplomatic quagmire with the Israelis; but, at least, Palestinians and Arabs would have understood why it all had to happen this way. If, however, the PLO did not believe that progress was possible under the given circumstances, and that the organisation did not want to be a party to a doomed process, Jordan could only decide to play it safe, and understandably so.

Playing it safe cannot be the immediate answer to the Palestine problem, and all Arabs should be aware of this fact. Perhaps this explains why the Palestinians have often stressed diplomatic moves for achieving a political settlement but seem to have found that reaching a compromise among the various Palestinian groups was indeed more important than risking a split over one dramatic move that might have even promised of solving the Palestinian problem overnight.

Still, the time factor may or may not work in the interests of the Arab Nation, but time definitely is not totally ours; and therefore we cannot afford to ignore today's realities as they are. In this context, our best option remains that of strong Jordanian-Palestinian solidarity, within a unified Arab position, to confront, together, the issue of peace or war.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Stop the inhuman war

THE WORLD watches while thousands of people are killed everyday in the Iran-Iraq war and on both sides of the borders. The war continues with ferocity and intensity and at an unprecedented level. In the past weeks the Iran-Iraq war has assumed the level of total annihilation and savagery, and is threatening to engulf the whole region.

The world powers stand by and watch, and many of them are selling arms to the two sides to make profit and gather wealth at the expense of the soldiers and civilians who fall in the battle and in the towns and villages. Moreover, Arab countries stand by and watch the massacre and the savage fighting without raising a finger to stop it. Thousands of people are killed, wounded and maimed as neighbouring nations watch and occasionally issue statements. Is this the true belonging to the Arab nation, and is this an implementation of the joint Arab Defence Treaty?

We can see that the Iraqis are capable of defending their land and are achieving successes over their enemies, but we also know that the war must stop because it is a war of annihilation and one that is fuelled by war mongers who are inhuman, and their actions should be denounced as contemptible and criminal.

Al Dustour: Harmful Congress attitude

AFTER ITS involvement in the Lebanese crisis and due to its failing policies in the region the American administration has started to hint and imply that it is determined to seek a settlement to the Middle East issue by regarding the Palestine problem as the central point and the crux of the conflict. But this attempt is bound to fail because certain forces in the U.S. Congress have begun a campaign to thwart any American policy not favouring Israel in any deal to come.

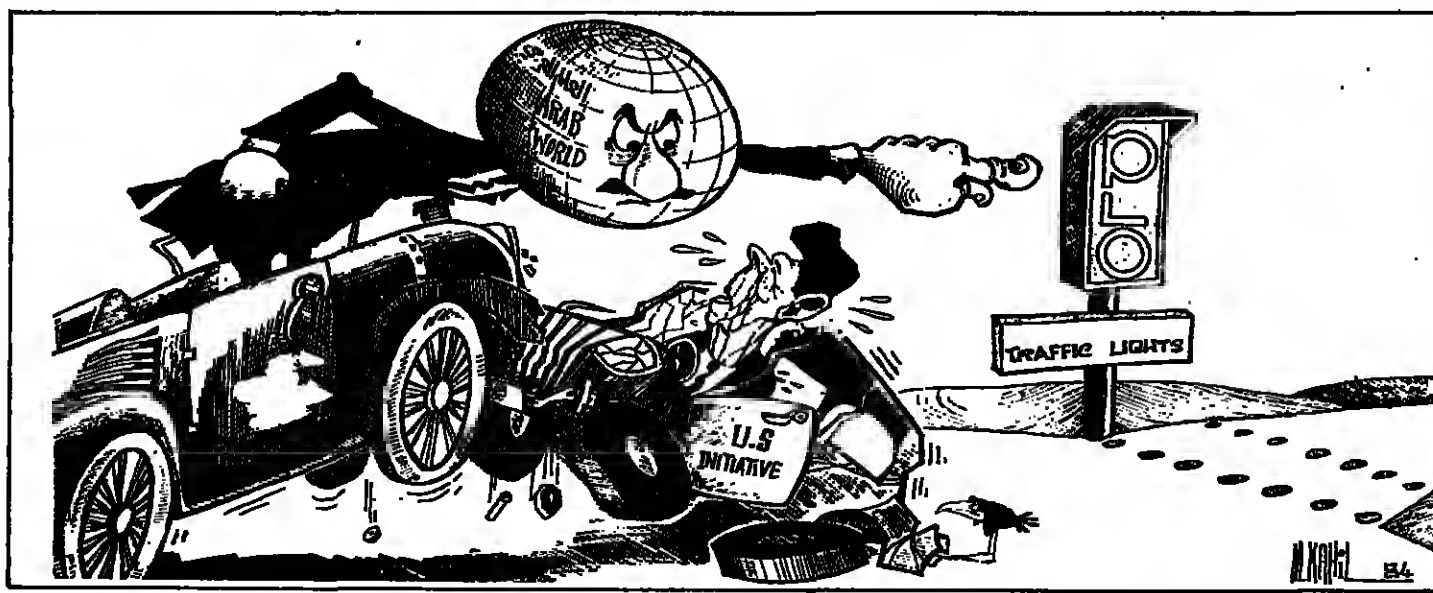
Latest reports from Washington indicate that Congress committees have submitted motions calling for the transfer of the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, banning any sort of contact with the PLO, and increasing military and financial aid to Israel. It is regrettable indeed to see the Congress taking this line because its committees are actually contributing towards an escalation of tension and increasing the danger of wars in our region. These moves realise that the danger they are creating will definitely harm American interests as well as many others, and that Israel cannot provide the necessary protection for such interests once the spark of war has flashed in this region.

Sawt Al Shaab: Responsible movement

JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN talks continued Wednesday for the third day in a brotherly atmosphere, which carries hope for the people of the occupied Arab lands and the Arab Nation. The resumption of the dialogue was in a responsible manner and in a spirit characterised by optimism and co-operation for the sake of serving higher Arab interests and for thwarting Zionist expansionist designs. Bolstering mutual understanding and finding a common ground for future action constitute the first step towards reviving an Arab campaign for solving the Middle East issue.

The two sides are now bent on finding means to safeguard the rights of the Palestinians in their homeland and for stopping Israel's drive to evict the Arab people from their territories.

His Majesty King Hussein's meeting with PLO chief Yasser Arafat is based on firm and strong convictions and a stable Jordanian-Palestinian relationship backed by social and historical links that moulded the two peoples together. The meeting is an expression of the two people's wishes and their aspirations.



Union rights at security agencies vary

By John Rogers
Reuter

LONDON — A British government ban on trade union membership at an electronic spy centre has sparked a major row over whether union rights compromise security.

But the issue appears to have few parallels elsewhere. A Reuter survey indicates that while employees of security establishments in several countries have the right to join unions, few have the right to strike.

Britain's labour movement had called a day of protest Tuesday against a government order to staff at its main electronic surveillance centre at Cheltenham, southwest England, and several outstations to renounce their union membership by today or seek transfer to other government jobs.

The government says future strikes might disrupt the work of the centre, known as the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), in eavesdropping on Soviet bloc radio traffic.

Reuter correspondents report a patchwork of rules governing union membership at security

agencies in other countries. Some allow union membership but ban strikes. Others have banned trade unions from security establishments. In several countries, staff are military personnel with no union rights.

In India, intelligence staff are trying to get round a ban on unions operating unofficially through staff groups.

Correspondents report: Washington — all levels of staff at the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and other intelligence services are banned from union membership under a 1979 executive order which formalised a previously tacit policy.

Ottawa — Canada's security and intelligence operations are handled by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, which has no trade unions. Internal grievances are aired at periodic meetings between elected staff representatives and the top brass.

New Delhi — The Indian government bans trade unions in its intelligence establishments. But staff at the domestic agency, the Intelligence Bureau, and the research and analysis wing, which deals with external intelligence, have formed employees' ass-

ociations in defiance of the ban. After a 1979 strike in the research and analysis wing, the government dismissed 10 association leaders and suspended 15.

The supreme court is hearing a petition by the association, which has accused the government of using "repressive measures" to break it, for re-instatement and compensation.

Bonn — Employees of West Germany's three intelligence services have the right to join trade unions, but do not have the right to strike.

"The idea of established civil servants striking is quite foreign here and the thought of security service personnel doing so has been seen as rather a British quirk — a trait of the island disease," a foreign diplomat commented.

Sydney — Australia places no bar on civilian union membership at sensitive defence establishments and sees no threat to its security as a result. "Union membership is almost encouraged because wage claims can be handled more easily," one defence source said.

Rome — Civilians working at Italian security establishments

have the right to join unions. But most staff are military personnel who are not permitted union membership.

The civilian right to union membership is firmly entrenched in law, and one union official said: "What happened at Cheltenham could not happen here. It would be against the constitution."

Paris — Staff at French electronic eavesdropping centres comparable to Cheltenham are in the armed forces and barred from union membership.

Brussels — Military staff at NATO headquarters in Brussels and the alliance's military headquarters in Mons have no union rights, but civilians are grouped in staff associations.

They have the right to strike, which Brussels staff exercised for the first time last June during a ministerial meeting. But the secretary-general used his powers to requisition more than 300 officials, and the headquarters was not closed down.

NATO officials are concerned about publicity the Cheltenham dispute has attracted. "The less public attention places like GCHQ get, the happier we are," one official said.

LETTERS

Misleading linkage

To the Editor:

I REFER to the article in the Jordan Times of Tuesday, February 14, 1984, page 3, "Smart police work solves thefts". In this article you mention the thieves of "the first band" have been identified as Mohammad A.K.H. (22), and Ahmad Sh. (21), and that "both thieves were students at the Schneller-School etc."

Now I have to mention that both young men left Schneller-School 14 and 10 years ago respectively, according to our information and to our documents, and that both boys were in Schneller-School for three and six years respectively.

So, can we be responsible for them as you seem to impute to our institution? And — how do you feel we can be responsible for them at all?

It seems very unfair to the staff of Schneller-School that you are mentioning it in connection with those thieves, since everybody who would read this article might feel that Schneller-School is producing thieves, and that both left Schneller-School recently only. We do not understand why you are mentioning our school which is highly reputed in our country, and which has been giving charitable services to hundreds of poor and homeless children for more than 120 years in our region. So we feel that this might be a kind of a hidden attack against our work, and we cannot defend ourselves towards the public. You can conclude this, too, from the fact that you do not mention from which school or institution the thieves of the second gang do come.

After all, we feel deeply concerned about this news linked to our well-known institution. I think that you can feel with us, and I would like to make use of this occasion and invite you and your staff to visit Schneller-School in the near future to see what we are doing for our country and our society. I am sure we are not producing thieves or other kinds of criminals.

Wolfgang Hinker
Director,
Theodor-Schneller School,
Amman.

Wines are also subject to character analysis

By Boris Weintraub

WASHINGTON — It is not entirely correct to say that Harro J. de Blij looks at a bottle of fine wine and thinks only of geography. Not entirely correct, but pretty close.

Show de Blij, a professor of geography at the University of Miami, a bottle of a 1975 Bordeaux from the commune of St. Estephe, and he will talk about the composition of the soil where its grapes were grown, the climate, the amount of heat and sunlight: physical geography.

He will talk about the laws governing the labeling of the wine, and how the appellation system was developed: political geography.

And he will talk about the long-standing traditions of the area's growers and wine makers, the specialized knowledge that goes back centuries, the relationship between grape and region: cultural geography.

"Geography is so marvelously reliable to wine," says de Blij who has just published a book called "Wine: A Geographic Appreciation." "It's climate, it's soil, it's culture, it's tradition, it's history. In a sense, you could say that a bottle of wine is a summary of a region."

Only after such discourse to a lunch companion will he taste the wine. It's not that de Blij doesn't like wine for itself. Far from it.

"A great bottle of wine is a noble creation, a work of art as well as science, a triumph of talent and initiative, a progeny of natural environment and cultural tradition," he writes in the book's preface. "As complex as a Monet landscape and as intricate as a Bach partita, such a wine is to senses of smell and taste what painting is to the eye and music to the ear... It is an endless adventure of boundless joy, enlivened by discoveries of unexpected treasures."

But de Blij, maintains that a full understanding of the geography of wine enhances one's enjoyment. He presses this principle upon his students in his wine geography course, one of about 20 offered in American colleges and universities.

Global wine research

His research has taken him to vineyards around the world: to Japan, New Zealand, the Mediterranean, Argentina, to France and Germany, of course, and to California and to many other American states, which led to the

discovery that grapes suitable for wine are grown in every state but Alaska.

Just as there is no single greatest wine, there is no single best way to produce it. Instead, de Blij says, great wines depend on a number of geographical factors. Take, for example, Bordeaux: Why are its wines so special?

"To a very considerable extent, it's history," de Blij says. "The length of time that generation after generation has been making wine, avoiding the pitfalls and capitalising on the advantages."

"The vine has been standing there for a long time, and it has capitalised on the particular environment that prevails there: its root systems may now be 16 or 18 feet more down into the soil, and cloned over and over until the most delicate adjustment with the local environmental ecology has been achieved."

"Then there is a cultural tradition that has produced experts, winemakers who can almost sense the readiness of grapes in the vineyard, feel the readiness of wine in the barrel, time the period of fermentation. There are certain areas where certain families have made wine and have taught the making of wine almost since civilisation began."

De Blij has found that the way vineyards are laid out says something about the character of the growers. He cautions against going too far in such comparisons, but writes in his book about the exactness and regimentation of German vineyards, the widely spaced, machine-harvested vines of central California, the undisciplined Italian vineyards where vines spill out everywhere.

"In Malta," he recalls, "the vines were simply crawling along the ground. I asked the winemaker, for whom the growers were contractors, why he didn't suggest that they hang the vines from a trellis. He said, 'What happens if we set up trellises and we get one of our familiar Mediterranean winds and everything gets blown over? I leave them alone.'"

Resistant to change

Grape growers and winemakers, de Blij has found, are conservative people who carry their traditional ways of doing things with them wherever they go. He cites a group of Germans who moved to Australia's Barossa Valley and planted grapes suitable only for distilling into brandy.

"The winemakers went to them and asked them to plant grapes for table wines," he says. "And the growers wouldn't do it. The reason is that they were comfortable with the way the vines they were familiar with grew and looked."

"What that says is that tradition dies hard, even when economic incentive seems to lie right before the growers."

De Blij has noted that grapes are grown and wine produced in many unexpected places, from Zimbabwe to Korea, from the Soviet Union to Uruguay. The rise in American production can be attributed to many factors, from increased consumption by Americans who have travelled abroad and seen wine-drinking as routine, to the increasing maturity and influence of the baby-boom generation that was drinking fruit wines a decade ago, to the development of hybrid grape vines designed to withstand difficult climates.

"We have hybrids now that combine the hardiness of American grapes with the tastiness of the French grapes," he notes.

"There are some hybrids you can grow where the temperature goes 20 degrees below zero. That would wipe out virtually every variety of vinifera — the species of grape that produces the world's noblest wines. You get grapes in Florida that have been bred for their resistance to mildew."

He sips his wine and, perhaps, ponders new field work. — National Geographic feature.

Lebanese winemaker excels despite conflict

By Charlotte Burnaby-Atkins

LONDON — Serge Hochar's fine wines have managed to flourish in the midst of war and chaos in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

The 44-year-old Lebanese winemaker admits he has needed a little luck. But Britain's top wine magazine says what he has achieved is nevertheless extraordinary — for he has managed to produce internationally noted wines in these circumstances.

Mr. Hochar, whose Chateau Musar wines are sold in Britain, the Netherlands, the United States, Canada, Australia, Hong Kong and Singapore, was presented recently with Decanter magazine's man of the year award for services to wine.

He told Reuters in an interview here that by a miracle his vineyards — in the valley southeast of Beirut on the edge of Israeli-controlled southern Lebanon and just south of Syrian forces — had been so far untouched by the fighting in Lebanon although an Israeli tank did rumble across one corner.

But Mr. Hochar has to overcome problems not faced by winemakers in France and Italy to market fine wines in Lebanon's often chaotic and dangerous environment.

"To produce wine at all in the circumstances would be remarkable but to produce excellent wine is extraordinary," said Colin Parnell, editor-in-chief of Decanter, a magazine with an international circulation.

Mr. Hochar at one point gave up hope of a 1983 harvest because of fighting in the nearby Shouf Mountains between Israeli troops, Maronite Christians and Druze militia.

But now he thinks his 1983 wines may be his best vintage ever.

He has described the 1983 wine as having "a lot of power, very well balanced, with depth, deep colouring, practically black — definitely worth of trouble."

Tony Lord, editor of Decanter, said Mr. Hochar's wines are "very much in the style and class of a Fine Chateau, particularly when around eight to 10 years old, but they also have a very individualistic streak."

"There is probably not another wine quite like it — certainly a wine for red meats, very much a big wine."

Mr. Hochar said he had luck last year when a bad winter followed by a mild summer delayed ripening of the grapes until fighting around the vineyards ceased. When fighting ended the Israelis had established themselves in the immediate area.

Once the grapes were picked the problem was to transport them to his winery in the village of Ghazir, overlooking the port of Jounieh north of Beirut.

The roads in South Lebanon were blocked for five months and the only way to the winery was by lorry from the Bekaa Valley slopes, over the Shouf Mountains, down to the coast and up to the village. The coastal highway was under constant bombardment but the lorry escaped with only a burst tyre.

Mr. Hochar exports thousands of cases of Chateau Musar wines annually although the exact quantity varies according to the difficulties he encounters.

The high cost of producing wine under such circumstances is a major worry and in order to keep the price stable Mr. Hochar is currently taking losses. His wines have not gone up in price for two years, retailing in Britain at around four sterling a bottle.

Randa Habib's Corner

Electoral traffic jam

THE ELECTORAL campaign has started beautifully. Posters, signs, and the city is clad in the colours of the candidates. With their photos blossom their promises and their electoral programmes. On all the big avenues the candidates advertise in big letters what they intend to do if they are elected, and since they are 41 competing for one seat for Amman the competition is very tight and this is what makes the advertisements more attractive. Each for the best place to attract the greatest attention.

The problem is when you try like I did the other day to read what the signs say while driving: You risk to bump into the car ahead of you or into a pole. As to the signs put on bends here, it is desperate because you can climb on the circle unless you park your car and sacrifice a few minutes to meditate on the "words" of a candidate.

More accidents can result out of those campaigns because of cars covered with posters advertising the big smile of a candidate. I wonder how a driver should manage to see them and drive carefully in the same time.

But let us not complain. After all it is not everyday that we have parliamentary elections. So let us make the most of it.

Junk man regains role in inflation-hit India

By Ajoy Sen
Reuters

NEW DELHI — As food prices soar again in India and inflation looks set to reach double figures for the first time in two years, the junk man is back in demand.

He searches city dumps for an empty can or a pair of worn rubber slippers and pays for household rubbish that will soon find its way back into use.

Wearing a battered cap and a cloth tied around his waist like a sarong, he announces his visit to residential areas with a short, loud yell of "kabadiwalla" (junk collector).

Cash-short housewives pick through heaps of garbage for tins for the junk man — empty beer bottles, old newspapers, saris and chipped crockery.

The day's pickings find their way through a chain of middlemen to a booming recycling industry which makes kitchen knives, toys, bangles and other consumer goods from discarded metal, plastic, glass and rubber.

The small and often home-based reprocessing units are scattered along dark narrow streets and alleys of Indian cities.

Articles made from junk look crude, but their low prices draws large crowds at pavement stalls.

The story of 43-year-old junk collector Uttam Singh is one of rags to riches. But his hunt through refuse supports a family of five and pays the \$30 monthly rent for a one-room apartment in a Delhi slum.

His income fluctuates, he says, according to the economics of supply and demand.

So when people drink more

beer in hot months, breweries pay higher rates for empty cans and bottles. Prices of old newspapers rise in the summer because they are used for wrapping when mangoes and bananas are in season.

Old furniture and watches, car accessories and used clothes reappear in the city's markets after mending and refurbishing.

A large secondhand motor parts market does brisk business in the shadow of Delhi's historic red sandstone Jama Masjid Mosque.

An owner of a 1951 model Vauxhall can buy a spare carburettor in these markets, though normally it would be difficult to obtain from an authorised shop.

Bombay's crowded Grant Road specialises in buying and selling plastic scraps, which are trucked to factories in the city's north-western industrial suburbs in Goregaon and Malad.

They are melted, treated with chemicals and colour and reappear as a new bucket, lunchbox or water bottle.

In thousands of homes in Calcutta, Madras and Delhi, entire families gather to cut, fold and paste glossy pages of magazines and newspapers and turn them into paper bags.

Factories make marmalade from the peeled orange skins of Delhi's fruit juice vendors and small backyard refineries buy used engine oil from garages for reprocessing into cheap "new" oil.

Police and health authorities often crack down on people selling adulterated medicines and cosmetics made to look like the genuine product.

But the junk trade and recycling units survive, springing up afresh — often almost overnight — in another location.



Sampling his own wares, Chris Catherman, winemaker at the St. Julian Winery in Paw Paw, Mich., USA, checks on the colour of some red wine in the winery's aging cellar.

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Jordan forms sports observer committee

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Culture and Youth Abdullah 'Oweidat announced here Tuesday night the formation of a committee from his ministry to follow up the programmes of various Jordanian sports federations and clubs.

The committee will be entrusted with ensuring that the various clubs are committed to implement their programmes, the minister said at a meeting with representatives of Jordanian sports federations.

He said that these federations should shift part of their activities and programmes to various governorates and districts on regular basis. Dr. 'Oweidat criticised programmes presented by the sports federations in the country which he called haphazard and coming at random. "Going through the federations' activities I found no mention whatsoever of a plan for opening a branch of any federation in rural regions," the minister said at the meeting.

He called on federation chiefs

to draw up programmes for the whole year, to introduce amendments and modifications to such programmes from time to time and to include players from various parts of the country in national teams. The minister also called for honouring veteran sportsmen and women, who he said, had exerted great efforts to promote sport activities in Jordan.

Sport should be regarded as an educational process and not a commercial one, and Jordan should have its own national sports philosophy for the sake of preserving values among the youth, the minister said. He expressed his view that sports is part of the general culture of the society and an integral part of the Jordanian family.

Top Belgian soccer men confess to fixing match

BRUSSELS (R) — The Brussels Public Prosecutor's office said Wednesday that officials and players of two top Belgian soccer clubs arranged bribes to fix the match which gave Standard Liege the 1981-82 Belgian League Championship.

A spokesman said Eric Gerets, captain of the Belgian national team and Standard captain in 1981-82, and two Standard officials

had confessed to paying a 420,000 franc (\$7,600) bribe to Waterschei to secure victory in that season's decisive final match.

Gerets, who now plays for the Italian club A.C. Milan, was detained by police Tuesday when he arrived to train at the national stadium in Brussels for Wednesday night's friendly match between Belgium and West Germany.

Witch doctor comes to aid golf tournament

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — A witch doctor has been called in by the organisers of the four-day Malaysian Open Golf Tournament to keep away rain.

Tournament director Edmund Yong said the witch doctor, known locally as the Bomoh, was being summoned after an unusually long wet spell in peninsular Malaysia recently which had left a cloud of uncertainty hanging over the event.

"The weather has been unpredictable," said Yong. "Normally it is dry at this time of the year. I only hope that the weather will be fine," he said.

The Malaysian Open is scheduled to begin Thursday.

Holmes, Coetzee to line up heavies showdown

NEW YORK (R) — Larry Holmes and South African Gerrie Coetzee, who both own a one-third share of the world heavyweight boxing title, will put their titles on the line over 15 rounds in July.

Promoter Cedric Kushner, who represents World Boxing Association (WBA) champion Coetzee, told Reuters the fighters had agreed terms and the bout would be held before the Olympics in July.

Sources said Holmes, who holds the International Boxing Federation (IBF) title, will receive \$8m and Coetzee \$3½m.

S.Korea prepares for historic clash with China in Davis Cup

KUNMING, China (R) — South Korea's Davis Cup team relaxed at their hotel here Tuesday in preparation for their historic Eastern Zone second round tennis tie against China starting on Friday.

The eight-man squad, the first South Korean sportsmen ever to play in China, arrived here on Saturday for the tie and have been training at Kunming's modern sports centre.

Seoul and Peking, bitterly opposed since the Korean war of the early 1950s, still have no diplomatic relations and the event is receiving very low-key coverage in the Chinese press.

But the clash is seen as part of a thaw in relations which began last May when the two countries held their first-ever official talks following the hijacking to Seoul of a

Chinese airliner.

On Wednesday, as temperatures dropped from a balmy 22 degrees centigrade (72f) to an unseasonal six degrees (43f), the Koreans were closeted in their hotel discussing tactics.

China's decision to stage the match here, about as far away from their North Korean allies as possible, underlined the Peking leadership's extreme sensitivity over the event.

There are no South Korean flags on show at the indoor stadium, and no other overt signs that representatives of the South Korean state are in town.

Far the South Koreans, their very presence is a diplomatic breakthrough and they are clearly not prepared to rock the boat. The team politely fend off reporters' questions about politics, saying they are merely here to play sport.

Apart from the match itself, the only official contact between the two sides will be Thursday's draw and a banquet due to be held Thursday night.

The South Korean team will be announced at the draw and the players will hold a final practice session afterwards.

China has also still to announce their team, but Liu Shuhua, at 1.88 metres (six feet three inches) China's tallest player, and the experienced You Wei were expected to spearhead the attack.

Both Liu and You scored singles victories in China's 4-1 first round win over Sri Lanka in Canton last month. The other members of the squad are Ma Keqin, 22, and Li Shuchen, 24.

Navratilova begins quest for biggest purse in women's tennis

NEW YORK (R) — Martina Navratilova began her quest for the biggest purse in the history of women's tennis — \$125,000 — with an impressive opening-round victory here Tuesday night in a \$500,000 tournament at Madison Square Garden.

Navratilova, who needed only 59 minutes for a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Virginia Ruzici, beat the Romanian player for the 13th time on the trot.

Joining the number one seed Navratilova in the quarterfinals

were third-seeded Pam Shriver of the U.S. and unseeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia.

Shriver defeated Wendy Turnbull of Australia 6-4, 6-4. The victory was the fifth in a row for Shriver over the Australian player, reducing Turnbull's lead in the head-to-head series to 11-8.

The big surprise of the opening round was Sukova's 7-6, (13-11), 7-6 (7-5) victory over fifth-seeded Jo Durie of Britain. Sukova, ranked 18th in the world, rallied from a 1-5 deficit in the first set.

"I got off to a terrible start and then I had nothing to lose," said the Prague teenager who fought

back to a 6-5 lead, before Durie broke in the 12th game to force a tie-breaker.

Durie rallied from a 1-6 deficit and fought off eight set points before Sukova hit a backhand service return that drew a half-volley error to win the first set.

The players battled to 5-5 in the tie-breaker before Sukova, who turned 18 years old last week, earned a match point when her forehand service caught the top of the net and skipped over Durie's racket.

The match ended on the next point after a Durie forehand went over the baseline.

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The last date for submitting bids is Saturday noon, March 31, 1984.

MANAGING DIRECTOR

THE Daily Crossword by James H. Byrne

ACROSS	24 Sonbeams	62 Famous football coach	21 Chemical suffix
1 USA word: abbr.	25 Small ducks	27 Inclination	22 Opp. of long
5 Guinness of film	30 Polish	66 Spokes	26 Cape Kennedy sight
9 — Flow, Scot.	37 Sp. house	68 Ostrich's cousin	28 Small drink
14 Philippine Moslem	40 Small drum	69 Morie critic	29 Squire
15 Etia product	41 Leaf and	70 Originated Pauline	31 Ancient Gr. coin
18 Four-bagger	42 More ashes	71 Electrical unit	32 Branch
17 Auditory	44 Center	72 Lat. abbr.	33 Gratis
18 Arabian Sea	45 Sands, e.g.	73 Stores	34 Fellow
19 Gulf	46 Permeable	74 Being: Lat.	35 Of flying: pref.
19 Dress shape	47 Drama	75 Dries hay	36 Brand
20 Plymouth plus Parker House	48 Miss Sommer		38 Actress
23 Genetic code carrier	49 Permeable		39 Patricia
	51 Shakespearean king		43 Whiskey
	53 Carroll heroine		46 Light can't pass
	56 Rolling stone lack		50 Transgress
	59 Navy man: abbr.		52 —, ama... 54 Better's problem
			55 System of values
			57 Use a rink
			58 Slamm'n' Sammy
			59 Study hard
			60 Brazil estuary
			61 Reputation
			63 Morays
			64 Classify
			65 Extensions
			67 Adherent: suff.

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75

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